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23 March 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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DAILY BRIEF

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*Cuba: (Exile groups may step up attempts to stage hit-and-run raids, similar to that of 17 March, against Cuban targets.)

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[redacted] exile groups have been increasingly critical of what they regard as US "coexistence" with the Castro regime. They are cognizant of US policy regarding raids against Cuba, and are likely to take measures to make the discovery of future expeditions difficult.)

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UAR-Syria-Iraq: The UAR-Syrian communique of 21 March indicates that differences between Nasir and the Syrian Baath leadership are so sharp that only very loose federal ties between the UAR, Syria, and Iraq are possible in the immediate future.

The communique, issued after three days of negotiations in Cairo, notes that "possibilities" have been opened for an "equitable federal unity." However, it makes no mention of the form this federation is to take, or of the principles on which it is to be based.

According to Muhammad Haykal, a leading Cairo editor and confidant of Nasir, the UAR has rejected the Baathist proposal for an early plebiscite on unity measures. It will insist on prior establishment in Syria and Iraq of a single-party front like Nasir's Arab Socialist Union.

Syrian and probably Iraqi leaders are expected to return to Cairo early next week for further talks.

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Congo: (The tenure of the Adoula regime remains uncertain.)

(On 20 March Adoula assured US Embassy officials that when he completes the reshuffling of his government, he will command a comfortable majority in parliament. He said the opposition was divided, that its members distrusted each other, and that many of them "are prepared" to accept ministerial posts.)

(Opposition leaders continue to predict Adoula's early fall. The prospects of obtaining ministerial office, however, does appear to have produced some divisions in their ranks. While "radical" leaders continue to plot Adoula's overthrow, "moderates" appear willing to support him if he will meet their demands for substantial representation in a new cabinet.)

(A group of Adoula's close advisers--including Foreign Minister Bomboko, Army Chief General Mobutu, Sureté Chief Nendaka, and Bank Governor Ndele--say that if Adoula gives in to opposition demands for their removal, or if he falls, they will take over and force President Kasavubu to dissolve parliament.)

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Uruguay-USSR: (A trade agreement reportedly being negotiated by the USSR with Uruguayan bankers could have adverse repercussions for US interests in Uruguay.)

(The US Embassy in Montevideo has been informed that Soviet negotiators are offering to buy 25 million dollars worth of Uruguayan beef. Under terms of the agreement, Uruguay would purchase 10 million dollars worth of crude oil.)

(If the deal is consummated, the beef sale would equate to almost the entire dollar value of Uruguayan meat exports in 1962. The importation of 10 million dollars worth of oil would fulfill approximately one half of Uruguay's yearly requirements, a quantity that is presently furnished by US oil companies. As reported, the terms of the contract provide that Uruguay would commence purchasing the oil when existing contracts expire.)

(The US Embassy also notes that completion of such a deal might discourage the government from adopting a tougher attitude toward Cuba.)

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*France: (The government is reportedly planning new initiatives which it is optimistic will bring an early end to the mine strike, now in its fourth week.)

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(The government hopes the report of its special commission will make possible a solution acceptable to the miners by the middle of next week. Union leaders, however, state they may not be able to maintain control over their followers for that long.)

(The Communist-led General Labor Confederation (CGT) has exploited the strike to advance toward its goal of achieving unity with the free unions. In pursuit of this objective, it has, throughout the period of the strikes, carefully refrained from overt political action.)

(At the same time, the CGT has encouraged joint action on all levels, and has succeeded in getting the free unions to cooperate in raising and administering strike funds. This kind of cooperation will make it difficult for free union leaders to turn down pleas to support CGT-sponsored activities in the future.)

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NOTES

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Communist China: Chinese students continue to exhibit dissatisfaction with educational and job opportunities on the mainland. Less than 100 of the 1,782 students who came to Hong Kong for the Chinese New Year holidays in January returned to Communist China. In 1962, some 95 percent of the approximately 15,000 students who visited Hong Kong during holiday periods remained in the colony. [redacted]

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France-USSR: De Gaulle has informed the French ambassador to Moscow, now on leave in Paris, that he plans no special initiative toward the Soviet Union. According to the French Foreign Ministry, De Gaulle says he has no intention either of engaging in private talks with the Soviets or of visiting the USSR. [redacted]

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Brazil: The Communist-controlled labor council in Recife, capital of Pernambuco state, began a general strike in the city on 21 March, and is reportedly trying to get workers in the interior to do likewise. A demand for higher wages is ostensibly the motive behind the strike, but the Communists' tactics leave no doubt that it is primarily a show of strength. Meanwhile, the state police, whose commander has a long record of pro-Communist activity, are doing nothing to protect property and nonstrikers. [redacted]

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